

GREEN POWER News

WAPA's Renewable Resources Program covering
green power, reports, studies and funding

WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION

Welcome to the *Green Power News Update*. This is a summary of the stories that ran during **February 2017**. New stories are added throughout the month to make sure you always know what is happening in our fast-changing industry. Check back often to see what's new!

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Green Power

California demand for wind power energizes transmission firms

A firm controlled by Philip Anschutz, the billionaire entertainment and pro sports magnate, will soon build the largest wind farm in the United States to serve utilities in California, where officials have set ambitious green power goals.

The \$5 billion project, however, will be constructed 700 miles away in Wyoming, a state better known for coal mines and oil fields.

The vast distance between the two states provides a different Anschutz-owned firm with another big opportunity: a \$3 billion project building transmission lines to deliver the power - one of a dozen similar power-line projects by other companies across the West.

Source: Reuters, 2/15/17

Download recording of Solar+Storage webinar

The **Clean Energy Group** presented American Samoa's Solar+Storage Microgrid on Feb. 16. Attendees learned how this project was developed and what the impact of the microgrid will be on the island's electric grid and its residents. This webinar was a presentation of Clean Energy Group's **Resilient Power Project**.

Source: Clean Energy Group, 2/16/17

Solar webinar recording, slides available to download

American Public Power Association presented the webinar, Solar in Your Community Challenge, Feb. 15. The Challenge will support dozens of teams across the country with cash prizes and technical assistance to demonstrate innovative, scalable business and financial models that can open new solar markets that benefit these underserved communities.

If you were unable to participate, a **recording** and the **PowerPoint presentation** are available online. (Registration required)

Source: American Public Power Association, 2/15/17

The Value of Certification and Verification

March 8

11:00 am-12:00 pm MT

On Wednesday, March 8, 2017, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Green Power Partnership (GPP) will host a **webinar** with the Center for Resource Solutions (CRS) examining the value of certification and verification in the green power market.

Switching to green power is easy with the right information but it can be difficult for buyers of green power to know whether they are buying credible products from credible suppliers. For this reason, EPA recommends, as a consumer best practice, buying green power products that are third-party certified and verified. Green power products certified by an independent third-party offers consumer a higher level of certainty about the integrity of their purchase.

The Center for Resource Solutions' Green-e Energy program not only certifies green power products, but also independently verifies the products on an annual basis.

Source: US Environmental Protection Agency, 2/13/17

Van Ness Feldman Hydro Newsletter - Vol. 4, Issue 2

- President Appoints Commissioner Cheryl LaFleur as Acting FERC Chairman; Former Chairman Norman Bay Resigns; Limitations on FERC's Ability to Act Without a Quorum
- Second Circuit Reinstates EPA's Water Transfers Rule
- FERC to Hold Workshop on Two-Year Pilot Licensing Process
- President Trump Issues Executive Order for Expedited Environmental Review of High Priority Infrastructure Projects
- President Trump Issues Executive Order for Regulatory Reform
- FERC Issues Policy Statement on Electric Storage Resources
- Supreme Court Agrees to resolve Jurisdiction Issue for Challenges to Waters of the U.S. Rule
- FERC Adjusts Civil Penalty Amounts
- Army Corps of Engineers Releases 2017 Nationwide Permits

Source: Van Ness Feldman, 1/31/17

Edison and Tesla unveil giant energy storage system

Tesla Motors Inc. and Southern California Edison on Monday unveiled one of the world's largest energy storage facilities, part of a massive deployment of grid-connected batteries that regulators hail as key to helping keep Southern California's lights on and reducing fossil-fuel reliance.

The facility at the utility's Mira Loma substation in Ontario contains nearly 400 Tesla PowerPack units on a 1.5-acre site, which can store enough energy to power 2,500 homes for a day or 15,000 homes for four hours. The utility will use the collection of lithium-ion batteries, which look like big white refrigerators, to gather electricity at night and other off-peak hours so that the electrons can be injected back into the grid when power use jumps.

Source: Los Angeles Times, 1/30/17

Find more [publications and webinars](#).

Reports and Studies

Final report issued on digester repowering project

Municipal wastewater treatment accounts for 0.5-0.6 percent of the national electricity demand and is typically the largest operating cost after staff. This infrastructure has an excellent opportunity to re-define itself and evolve to being an energy producer versus an energy user. The solids, or sludge in municipal wastewater are rich in energy potential that can be harnessed when treated with the right anaerobic digestion technology.

A demonstration project by the California Energy Commission evaluated the measure of retrofitting a conventional digester with an **Omnivore digester** to increase biogas production.

Source: California Energy Commission, 2/15/17

Archived webinar introduces solar standards guide

Clean Energy States Alliance has produced a guide on standards and requirements for solar equipment, installation, and licensing and certification. The guide, "**Standards and Requirements for Solar Equipment, Installation, and Licensing and Certification: A Guide for States and Municipalities**," is designed for state and municipal officials who are developing or revising solar standards and requirements. It discusses a selection of programs and rules for solar equipment, installation, and licensing & certification to highlight the means by which states and municipalities have addressed these areas and includes recommendations and considerations for each topic area.

In this webinar, report authors Beren Argetsinger of Keyes & Fox LLP and Ben Inskeep of EQ Research LLC provided an overview of the guide and addressed questions from the audience.

Source: Clean Energy States Alliance, 2/9/17

National Solar Jobs Census for 2016 now available

The Solar Foundation's National Solar Jobs Census 2016 is the seventh annual update on current employment, trends, and projected growth in the U.S. solar industry. The Solar Jobs Census 2016 found that solar employment increased by over 51,000 workers, a 25 percent increase over 2015. Overall, the Solar Jobs Census found there were 260,077 solar workers in 2016. Solar industry employment has nearly tripled since the first National Solar Jobs Census was released in 2010.

Source: The Solar Foundation, 2/3/17

DOE releases 2017 US Energy & Employment Report

The US Energy & Employment Report 2017 finds that the Traditional Energy and Energy Efficiency sectors today employ approximately 6.4 million Americans. These sectors increased in 2016 by just under 5 percent, adding over 300,000 net new jobs, roughly 14% of all jobs created in the country.

Source: Department of Energy, 2/1/17

RMI report explores risks, opportunities of community solar development

Among developers, financiers, and communities, coming to a shared understanding of the risks and opportunities of community-scale solar (CSS) can be challenging. Rocky Mountain Institute's **Shine program** and **Sustainable Finance practice** have collaborated on a report outlining project structures that address key risks and opportunities for stakeholders interested in developing and scaling CSS projects. The report, *Financing Community-Scale Solar: How the Solar Financing Industry Can Meet \$16 Billion in Investment Demand by 2020*, is based on recent on-the-ground community and industry experience.

Download ***Financing Community-Scale Solar*** .

Source: Rocky Mountain Institute, 1/31/17

DER rate design explored in NARUC manual

The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners has published a manual to assist commissions in considering appropriate rate design and compensation policies for distributed energy resources (DER).

The nature of electricity delivery, consumption, generation, and grid itself are changing, and changing rapidly. Understanding how DER impact the grid itself, including reliability, is important, but also understanding where, when, and how DER can benefit the grid is of equal value. Distributed Energy Resources Rate Design and Compensation attempts to provide regulators and stakeholders with information on how to address these opportunities, while maintaining affordable, reliable, safe and secure electricity.

Source: National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, 12/1/16

Standards and Requirements for Solar Equipment, Installation, and Licensing and Certification: A Guide for States and Municipalities

This guide from the Clean Energy States Alliance is intended as a starting point for program managers in states or municipalities who are developing or revising standards and requirements for installation, licensing and certification, equipment and warranties for solar photovoltaic (PV) equipment and systems. It discusses a selection of programs and rules in these areas to highlight various means by which states and municipalities have addressed these topics and how they impact the implementation of solar policy goals. The guide develops recommendations and considerations for each topic area based upon review of numerous state and local solar programs and in consultation with program managers, solar installers, consultants, and non-governmental organizations.

Source: Clean Energy States Alliance, 1/30/17

Find more [publications and webinars](#).

Funding

Find Funding & Financing Opportunities

The Energy Department supports a number of grant, loan and financing programs. Learn more about these programs and how they can help you -- whether you are a startup energy business looking to launch a pilot project, a company with proven technology that needs help reaching commercial scale, or a state, local or tribal government looking for funding resources for energy projects.

Source: Department of Energy, 2/17/17

Apply for funding for energy efficiency, renewables

The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) works with business, industry, universities, and other organizations to increase the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. One way EERE encourages the growth of these technologies is by offering financial assistance opportunities for their development and demonstration.

Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 2/17/17

Find more [funding sources](#).